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VIA HAND DELIVERY

September 20, 2000

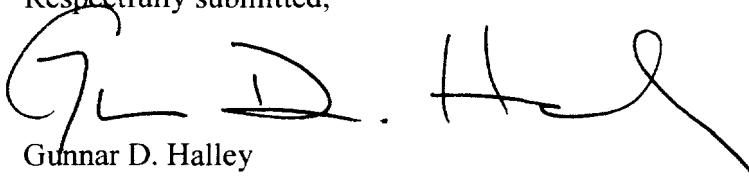
Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
12th Street Lobby, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation in WT Docket No. 99-217 and CC Docket No. 96-98

Dear Ms. Salas:

Today, David Turetsky of Teligent, Inc. provided via facsimile to Kathryn Brown, Chief of Staff in the Office of Chairman Kennard a copy of the attached letters from Consumers Union and AARP, respectively, that urge prompt Commission action to ensure that tenants have access to their telecommunications carrier of choice. Because these letters concern a pending rulemaking at the Commission, in accordance with the Commission's rules, for each of the above-mentioned proceedings, I hereby submit to the Secretary of the Commission two copies of this notice of Teligent's ex parte presentation.

Respectfully submitted,


Gunnar D. Halley
Counsel for TELIGENT, INC.

Enclosures (2)

cc: Kathryn Brown (with enclosures)

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 20, 2000

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Re: WT Docket No. 99-127 and CC Docket No. 96-98

AARP appreciates having the opportunity to comment on an issue that directly impacts an important segment of our membership: the ability of competitive telecommunications service providers to offer service to consumers residing in Multi-Dwelling Units (MDUs). This is an issue of considerable importance to older Americans. A significant percentage of America's estimated 40 million MDU households are headed by seniors. AARP is concerned that these consumers will increasingly find that their landlord or building owner has foreclosed their right to choose among telecommunications service providers. We ask the FCC to act swiftly and decisively to eliminate this barrier to competition.

AARP has actively supported the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in the belief that implementation of the Act would eliminate barriers to competition, providing more choices for consumers of telecommunications services. While the promise has become a reality for most consumers, a significant barrier still exists for consumers residing in multi-dwelling units.

The FCC must act to ensure that competitive carriers are able to offer their services to consumers in multi-dwellings units. Tenants, not landlords and building owners, should have the opportunity to choose among carriers for their telecommunications services. All consumers, regardless of where they live, should have the choice of providers for their telecommunications services.

AARP looks forward to working with the Commission, building owners and carriers on this matter in the hope that meaningful telecommunications service competition can be provided for all segments of the population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martin A. Corry".

Martin A. Corry
Director
Federal Affairs



Publisher of Consumer Reports

September 19, 2000

William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of Consumers Union¹, I am writing to request that the Commission establish rules that would open multi-tenant environments (MTEs) to facilities-based competition for local telephone service. As you are aware, currently building owners can require their tenants to use the local phone provider of the building owner's choice. Since building owners may have a greater incentive to pick a top-dollar exclusive contract rather than offer their tenants a choice of local carriers, the large incumbent local telephone companies have an enormous advantage over potential competitors in obtaining MTE business.

We believe that occupants of MTEs should have the right to select from a variety of carriers. And while building owners have a right to just compensation for use of their property, just compensation does not require that property owners be allowed to block the expansion of local phone competition. We believe that it runs directly counter to the goals of the 1996 Telecommunications Act if occupants of MTEs are forced to either select the single phone service offered to them or go without a phone.

Unfortunately, consumers are not getting the local phone competition that Congress promised in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The Commission should not sit in the grandstand cheering for competition while its rules allow building owners to receive handsome payments from incumbent monopolies that seek to block potential competitors from providing local phone service. It is critical that the FCC moves to jumpstart competition and open up MTEs to more competition. We encourage the Commission to act promptly on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gene Kimmelman
Co-Director, Washington Office
Consumers Union

CC: Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness

¹ Consumers Union is a nonprofit membership organization chartered in 1936 under the laws of the State of New York to provide consumers with information, education and counsel about goods, services, health, and personal finance; and to initiate and cooperate with individual and group efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of life for consumers. Consumers Union's income is solely derived from the sale of *Consumer Reports*, its other publications and from noncommercial contributions, grants and fees. In addition to reports on Consumers Union's own product testing, *Consumer Reports* with approximately 4.5 million paid circulation, regularly, carries articles on health, product safety, marketplace economics and legislative, judicial and regulatory actions which affect consumer welfare. Consumers Union's publications carry no advertising and receive no commercial support.

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